

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for automatic adjustment of multiple bias
2 potentials comprising:

3 providing a system having a power supply with
4 capabilities for monitoring biased components electrically
5 connected to the power supply;

6 attaching a biased component to a feedback signal to
7 observe potential through a biased load;

8 comparing the feedback signal to an expected bias
9 potential; and

10 controlling an output of the power supply in response to a
11 feedback signal by adjusting the output of the power supply in
12 response to the feed back signal.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the comparing step
2 further comprises comparing the feedback signal with a range of
3 potentials as the expected bias potential.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein prior the step of
2 comparing is performed digitization and software-filtering step on the
3 feedback signal are performed.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching
2 further comprises attaching the feedback signal to a rotating
3 connection on the biased load.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of attaching
2 further comprises a spring loaded carbon contact as the rotating
3 connection.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing
2 further comprises providing the system as a networked system.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing
2 further comprises the system having multiple imaging modules
3 attached to the power supply through multiple feed back signals.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of attaching
2 further comprises attaching the feedback signals to multiple biased
3 components within each of the modules.

1 9. An integrated bias potential control and diagnostic system
2 for use within an electrophotographic imaging that allows for
3 automatic adjustment of multiple bias potentials and the sensing if
4 those potentials for the purpose of controlling and monitoring the
5 function of the imaging module comprising:

6 a) a networked system having facilities for controlling
7 and monitoring at least one imaging module with at least one
8 biased component;

9 b) a power supply having at least one control signal
10 operatively connected to the bias load feedback;

11 c) a feedback connection connected to the biased
12 load;

13 d) comparison means operatively connected to the
14 power supply for comparing the bias feedback signal to an
15 expected bias potential determined; and

16 e) means responsive to the comparison means for
17 taking corrective action when the bias feedback does not match
18 the expected bias potential.

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1 10. The system of claim 9 further comprising:
2 the means responsive to the comparison means further
3 comprising a bias error signal provided from the power supply
4 to a machine control system; and
5 a software-filtering module that applies a predetermined
6 set of parameter to the bias error signal to determine if an error
7 should generated.

1 11. A method for detecting error conditions within a biased
2 load:

3 providing a system having a power supply operatively
4 configured to monitor biasing of components;

5 attaching a feedback signal to the power supply that
6 observes current traveling from the power supply and through
7 the biased component;

8 comparing the feedback signal to a set of predetermined
9 parameters; and

10 responding to the comparing step to determine the
11 existence of an undesirable condition.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of responding
2 further comprises determining the existence of one of the following:
3 (open load, over load, shorted load intermittent contact with the load,
4 arcing conditions, or power supply output failure) as the undesirable
5 condition.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of responding
2 further comprises controlling an output of the power supply in
3 response to a feedback signal by adjusting the output of the power
4 supply in response to the feed back signal.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of comparing
2 further comprises sensing the feedback signal by either interrupt or
3 sampling prior comparing.

1 15. The methods of claim 11 wherein the step of responding
2 further comprises a step of software filtering of the feedback signal.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of software
2 filtering further comprises a step of digital filtering the feedback signal
3 to determine if an error state exist, the step of digital filtering further
4 comprising sampling the feedback signal for a predetermined number
5 of consecutive samples.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of software
2 filtering further comprises the step sampling the feedback signal to
3 determine if a biasing error exists and determining if the biasing error
4 is significant then instructing the system to shutdown.

1 18. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing
2 further comprises as one of the monitored components a toning roller
3 and the step of responding further comprises adjusting bias level to
4 control a toner biasing level for the toning roller.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the biasing levels are set
2 as part of the electrophotographic process control including a DC bias
3 level of the toning roller bias to control toning density and an AC
4 component of the bias per a predetermined ratio relative to the DC
5 bias set point.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the toning density is
2 monitored by a transmission densitometer in the system.